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TURKEY.

Sanitary report from Constantinople.

[Report No. 177.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, *October 28, 1897.*

The sanitary news communicated at the last two sittings of the International Sanitary Commission was, except the number of deaths from cholera and plague registered in the principal towns of India communicated by the English sanitary representative, the outbreak of the epidemic of smallpox at Cavalla eastward from Salonica and the existence of diphtheritic cases in the vilayet of Lebanon (Syria). I can not state whether the question was about the existence of an epidemic or of sporadic cases of diphtheria. Such cases exist always in Constantinople, as well as cases of typhoid fever. From the other provinces of the Turkish Empire no sanitary news has been received. At the same sittings a decision was taken, at the request of the English sanitary representative, in order to beg the British Government for the continuation of the prohibition of the pilgrimage to Mecca on account of the existence of the plague epidemic in Bombay. It has also been officially stated that a second case of plague occurred on the 15th instant in Madras.

The other questions discussed during the two above-mentioned sittings were on administrative affairs. On the abuses, for instance, occurring in the sanitary office and lazaretto of Bassorah, where, according to the reports of the Ottoman sanitary representative in Teheran and another physician who has been ordered to make an inquiry on the subject, all the employers in Bassorah are responsible for all kinds of abuses, sanitary, financial, and administrative.

This is due to the bad choice of the sanitary officials, as well as of the sanitary physicians, who are appointed by a committee which is appointed by the members of the International Sanitary Commission. This latter question has been long discussed, and the discussion will continue because the sanitary officials are not appointed for their capacity, aptitude, and learning, but, I am ashamed to state, are appointed by favor, as belonging to such a religion or such a nationality.

During the last fortnight the number of deaths registered in the town of Constantinople, i. e., from the 12th up to the 25th instant, was 407, of which 2 were from measles, 7 from diphtheria, 7 from typhoid fever, and 16 from smallpox.

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,
United States Sanitary Commissioner.

STATISTICAL REPORTS.

BAHAMAS—*Dunmore Town*.—Two weeks ended November 5. Estimated population, 1,472. No deaths.

Governors Harbor.—Two weeks ended November 6, 1897. Estimated population, 1,500. No deaths.

Green Turtle Cay—Abaco.—Two weeks ended November 4, 1897. Estimated population, 3,900. No deaths.

CHILE—*Antofagasta*.—Month of October, 1897. Estimated population, 14,000. Total deaths, 43, including 6 deaths from phthisis pulmonalis.

CUBA—*Manzanillo*.—Two weeks ended October 31, 1897. Estimated population, 20,000. Total deaths, 121, including yellow fever, 5, and enteric fever, 2.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales*.—The deaths registered in 33 great towns in England and Wales during the week ended October 30 correspond to an annual rate of 17.6 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 10,992,524. The highest rate was recorded in Wolverhampton, viz, 25.7, and the lowest in Cardiff, viz, 9.5.

London.—One thousand five hundred and fourteen deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 58; scarlet fever, 22; diphtheria, 65; whooping cough, 17; enteric fever, 23, and diarrhea and dysentery, 16. The deaths from all causes correspond to an annual rate of 17.7 a thousand. In greater London 1,896 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 15.7 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included 21 from diphtheria, 1 from measles, 5 from scarlet fever, and 6 from whooping cough.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended October 30 in the 23 principal town districts of Ireland was 17.6 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Wexford, viz, 4.5, and the highest in Armagh, viz, 35.1 a thousand. In Dublin and suburbs 189 deaths were registered, including scarlet fever, 2; enteric fever, 9, and diphtheria, 2.

JAMAICA.—Week ended October 23, 1897. Estimated population, 694,865. Total deaths not reported. The deaths included 1 from yellow fever and 1 from whooping cough.